



Parent **APRIL** Newsletter

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences are offered the weeks of April 10 and 17. Each classroom's conference schedule is posted. Teachers look forward to this chance to meet with parents to share current information including classroom observations and developmental skills detailed on the Child Observation Form. Teachers hope to meet with each child's parents, often our only relaxed chance to share information.

Childcare is not offered during conferences; please make other arrangements for your children. This will prevent interruptions while talking and allow other parents and teachers to meet without distractions. Conferences last approximately 20 minutes.

IN THE CLASSROOM & AT HOME: WHO IS IN CHARGE, REALLY?

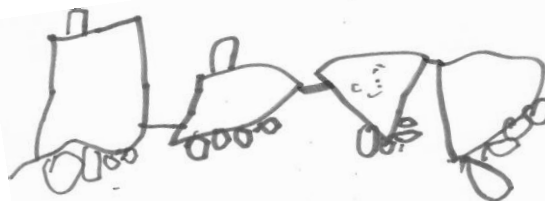
Two children were working at the art table, discussing their afterschool plans. One child commented, "My mom said I can't go to the playground today." The other child responded, "Well, you just have to ask her again." The first child said, "No, she said we have to go straight home." Her friend looked at her and said, "Well, you just got to teach your mom who's boss."

During the preschool years children naturally challenge their parents' (and occasionally, their teachers') authority. When a child seems to be "pushing all your buttons," he/she is really trying to figure out:

- Who is making the decision?
 - Teach your child to ask permission rather than tell the parent what is going to happen. "Ask me if we can go to the playground after school and I'll decide." Then wait until they ask in a respectful manner.
 - If there's room for discussion, present that first rather than allowing your child to wear you down. "I know that usually you want to go to the playground after school, and we have some time today. What do you think?"
- How firm is the parent's decision?
 - Be prepared for resistance to unpopular decisions: "I know that you don't like my answer, but I have decided."
 - Negotiate only when your child is showing respect. If your child makes a good argument or is offering creative solutions to the problem, be open to persuasion... but *only* if your child asks respectfully.
- If I whine/cry/have a tantrum/ask again and again can I change my parent's mind (and gain control of the situation)?
 - Once a child has found this strategy successful, he or she will use it again. Do not waver! Calmly say, "Even if you cry, I'm not going to change my mind."
 - Give a brief reason, but avoid lengthy explanations in an effort to make your child happy with your decision. Learning to cope with frustration and disappointment is a life skill, key to long-term, inner happiness.

In the midst of a power struggle, it is easy to forget that children test parents more than any other adults in their lives because parents matter more! That is why children are "so good at school" and act out when parents arrive. The family hierarchy that is established when children are young will affect family life as children grow older. Get comfortable being the boss and making unpopular decisions now – you'll need that authority when your children are teens!

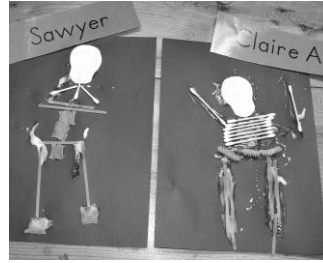
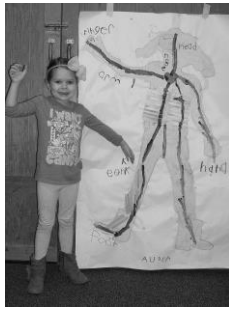
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING UPSTAIRS? TRANSPORTATION STUDY!



Hands-on learning means experimenting with motion, drawing to record observations and creating with art materials.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING DOWNSTAIRS? BODY STUDY!



During this month-long study, children learned to record knowledge, problem-solve with others, develop creative ideas and role-play for understanding.

Photo Days

AddVision Photography will take group photos of RecSchool classes **Tuesday, April 25** and **Wednesday, April 26**, during class. Photos are taken inside for best photo quality. Please dress your child in casual, play-appropriate clothes since we will still play outside. Complete information will be sent home the week of April 17. Photos will be delivered to RecSchool mid-May.

We're Going to Slate Run!

Thursday, April 27, all RecSchool classes meet at Slate Run Historical Farm and Park for exploration, play, a picnic and a farm tour. Parents need to provide transportation to this fun destination. Siblings and other family members are also welcome. The planned schedule for the day:

10:30 a.m. Buzzard Roost Picnic Area: pond exploration, fishing and play
11:30 a.m. Picnic lunch
12:30 p.m. Historical Farm: hands-on experiences with farm life, animals and chores. We hope to have the entire farm to ourselves!

Complete information will be sent home the week of April 17.

KINDERGARTEN: EARLY DAYS

As kindergarten entry approaches, it is natural for parents to wonder what the first days will bring. Several former parents shared their words of wisdom:

- "My daughter was exhausted the first few weeks. We quickly learned that we shouldn't plan anything for Thursday or Friday evenings..., she needed to get to bed early."
- "...expect some grouchiness after school that is mostly just related to them being tired. Set bed times earlier and don't take things personally or pick unnecessary battles!"
- "My child was really nervous, but once he got to know his teacher, he was fine."
- "(don't be) alarmed if you ask what they did today, and they respond with "I don't remember." ...wait until dinner time...that gives (the child) time after school to unwind and she's ready to give me a small glimpse into her long day."

It takes a little while for teachers to get to know children too. During the first two months of kindergarten, all children enrolled in public schools will complete the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA.) This assessment replaces the KRA-L, which focused on language and literacy. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) states, "The kindergarten assessment covers six areas: social skills (including the way students learn), language and literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, physical well-being and motor development." Each child's skills are assessed in one of three ways: selecting an answer to a question, completing a requested task or through teacher observation during class or recess. The ODE states, "The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment helps a teacher understand each student as he or she is starting school. A teacher will use this information to individualize instruction for every child." For more information, visit the ODE website at <http://education.ohio.gov/Parents>. Search for "Kindergarten Readiness Assessment" or "Kindergarten Readiness Checklist."

Important April Dates

Wednesday, April 5	May tuition due, the last payment!
Weeks of April 10 & April 17	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Friday, April 14	RecSchool Closed
Monday, April 17	
Tuesday, April 25	Class Photo Days, during class
Wednesday, April 26	
Thursday, April 27	Slate Run Family Field Trip

"train" drawn by Norah, age 4.5

